

Minutes of Laceby Village Council Finance and Planning Meeting
Held at the Stanford Centre, Cooper Lane, Laceby on Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7.30pm

13214 Present: Chair – Cllr D Hasthorpe
Cllr R James, Cllr B Metcalf, Cllr S Turner, Cllr S Greenbeck, Cllr D Johnson,
Cllr R Childs Cllr P Schofield, Cllr B Barford, Cllr P Page

Also present: Clerk – Nicola Ashton
1 member of public

Apologies: **Wold Cllr Henry Hudson**

Cllr Hasthorpe opened the meeting, welcoming everyone present to the December meeting of Laceby Village Council. Apologies were received and accepted.

13215 Minutes from the 7th November 2023

Minutes from the Finance and Planning Meeting on the 7th November 2023 were put forwards for approval. The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting, and proposed by Cllr Schofield and seconded by Cllr Barford. Cllr Hasthorpe ensured all Councillors agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record of events and, with a show of full hands, the minutes were approved.

13216 Declaration of Interests & Dispensations

Cllr's Johnson, Barford and Metcalf requested that a declaration of interest be recorded for them in regards to expenses incurred.

Cllr Hasthorpe requested the following statement be recorded.

"I am a member of North East Lincolnshire Borough Council's Planning Committee and I am present here in my role as Village Councillor and not as member of North East Lincolnshire Council's Planning Committee. I am able to participate as the proposal before us does not substantially affect the well-being or financial standing of the Village Council, and must make it clear that my views and vote are expressed on the limited information before me. I must reserve judgement and the independence to make up my own mind on each separate proposal, based on my overriding duty to the whole of North East Lincolnshire, not just to the people in the village, as and when I hear all the relevant information when it comes before me at Planning Committee.

I will not in any way commit myself as to how I or others may vote, or what may be said, when the proposal comes before Planning Committee. I will declare a personal interest in relation to my being a member of the Village Council when the item is before Planning Committee."

The declarations of interest were accepted. There were no dispensations recorded.

13217 Public Forum

Cllr Hasthorpe opened the public forum welcoming the public to the meeting, and asked whether there were any items for discussion this evening. This was confirmed as nothing for discussion from the member of public present, and Cllr Hasthorpe close the public forum.

13218 Matters Arising

- **Village Newsletter**

The Clerk advised that she had enough information to put together a small 8-page newsletter, and had also requested quotes from 3 companies to print the newsletter up. Unfortunately, we do not yet have any quotes to consider. The Clerk will chase these.

- **CCTV**

The survey report had been shared with the Councillors, and the overall response was that it was incredibly costly to increase the CCTV around the village. The 'cheaper' option being £42k, and the standard quote being £99k, for just 2 cameras. The Clerk has contacted NELC as the

survey and quote was not to the specification we requested and did not cover the areas of the village we wanted the CCTV to cover. The Clerk has also enquired whether there are any alternative options, which may be more cost effective to meet what the village needs.

13219 Police Matters

The Wolds Police Newsletter was shared and it was noted that there had been 17 crimes reported across the Wolds, with the following occurring in Laceby:

- 1 reported theft of a disability badge on Grimsby Road;
- 1 reported theft of caravan from the caravan yard on Caistor Road;
- 1 report of assault;
- 4 reports of harassment;
- 2 reports of minor public order offences;
- 1 report of sending malicious communications;
- 2 reports of ASB relating to youths at St Francis Grove Park.

It was noted there was nothing to feedback to the Neighbourhood Policing Team, and that malicious communications were rife across the area. It was also noted that since the CCTV was installed in St Francis Grove, it had made a difference.

13220 Ward Councillors Report

Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the only item he had to report was the devolution Greater Lincolnshire deal, which whilst bringing huge benefits and significant capital to the area, it did have both good and bad points to it. One of the significant points was the benefit to Laceby as the plan focuses on building on brownfield sites. The consultation details has been shared with all Councillors

13221 Planning Matters

- **DM/0093/23/FUL – retrospective application for the installation of external extraction fans and the installation of a new flue to rear of café (amended plans to include acoustic fence); Grimsby Garden Centre, Grimsby Road, Laceby.**

The application and plans were examined and discussed by all Cllrs present. It was identified that this was retrospective planning and noted that there were no objections on the planning portal. No objections were recorded.

- **DM/1123/23/FUL – convert existing garage to store, erect single storey extension to side/rear of dwelling to include associated works; 5 Maple Walk, Laceby.**

The application and plans were examined and discussed by all Cllrs present. No objections were recorded.

- **DM/1158/23/FUL - Erect single storey rear extension with rooflights and associated works Location; 4 Charles Avenue Laceby**

The application and plans were examined and discussed by all Cllrs present. No objections were recorded.

13222 Finance Matters

Payments for authorisation

The following items required approval for payment, all were Bacs payments:

Salaries x 3 members of staff for December 2023	£1,821.86
HMRC – Salaries December 2023	£390.79

Pensions – December 2023	£64.87
Cemetery Waste – Nov/Dec 2023	£52.22
Clerk Phone & Broadband – Nov/Dec 2023	£25.72
Clerk Petty Cash	£16.49
Room Hire	£10.50
Allotments Water	£179.58
Cemetery Equipment	£108.63
B Metcalf reimbursement (cable ties)	£8.78
B Barford reimbursement (post digger & cement)	£78.95
D Johnson reimbursement (extension cabling)	£19.98
Stationery	£24.60
Christmas Tree	£96.00
Total Payments	£2,898.96

Cllr Greenbeck proposed the payments, and this was seconded by Cllr Childs all Councillors agreed the payments be authorised with full show of hands.

Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2023

NALC have advised the local government pay agreement for 2023 has been agreed regarding the rates of pay applicable from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. This pay award will affect the Clerks pay by an extra £1 an hour, and employers are encouraged to implement the pay award as swiftly as possible. Cllr Childs proposed that the pay award be implemented, and Cllr Greenbeck seconded this. A full show of hands confirmed all in agreement.

LVC Budget Plan 2024/25

The Clerk shared the budget plan with the council, advising that the precept must be approved at the January meeting. The Clerk advised that the drafted budget plan was based on keeping the precept at the same level for a 5th year of £41,631. It was acknowledged that with the cost-of-living increases, inflation and increase to national minimum wage, the Council will need to take this into consideration for 2024/25 when setting the precept.

The Clerk advised that even if we set the precept at the same again this next year, the amount charged to each household would increase slightly to allow for the fact that the cost is shared between less households. The calculations made by NELC are based on the number of Band D properties, and as there is a continual decline in the number of band D properties, this changes the average numbers of properties in the village by banding, and as a result pushes the precept up. It does not mean the LVC get more money as we will still get the amount we request. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that everyone should look at the budget plan, and this can be discussed at the next meeting. If the precept is kept at the same level, then the above information needs to be communicated to the residents and the explanation could be included in the newsletter.

13223 St Francis Grove Matters

Cllr Johnson advised that the play area was looking perfect, and that rubbish had been cleared as it accumulated. Cllr Johnson added that the soft flooring will need to be cleaned after the winter.

Cllr Hasthorpe advised that we could place a metal bin into St Francis Grove play area for a cost of £708 +VAT. Cllr Childs advised that there would be less litter and as this bin was fire proof this would be safer.

Cllr Metcalf advised that we have the Froggo bin, and that now the Litter Picker was back at work, this could be put back on the play area. We could then look to replace this bin in due course? Cllr Metcalf advised that the Litter picker empties the bin for us.

It was questioned whether NELC would put a bin into the play area as they can purchase with economies of scale making things cheaper?

13224 Church and Cemetery Matters

Remembrance Sunday

It was felt that overall the Remembrance Sunday went very well, however, some improvements could make it even better:

- Could we have a loud speaker outside the Church so that those stood outside can hear the service too?
- Communication between the Village Council and the RBL could have been better, and the event could have been better co-ordinated by the RBL with the Village Council. Despite our road closures, the RBL allowed cars through which meant safety was at risk. Cllr Barford advised that next year we need to meet with the RBL to advise of what is happening and when and so that we all run from the same order sheet.

Cllr Hasthorpe thanked all the Councillors who attended, and Cllr's Johnson, Barford and Childs for manning the road closures. Cllr Hasthorpe also asked for a letter of thanks be sent to the volunteers who manned the High Street / Teapot, road closure – Martin, Fred and Nick – we are very grateful for their continued support.

Christmas Tree Event

Cllr Metcalf advised that despite it being incredibly cold, around 70 people came to sing carols around the tree. Everyone said they enjoyed the event.

Cllr Childs advised that it had also been the LCC (Laceby Community Collective) Christmas Market that day, with around 400 people attending the event. Cllr Childs suggested it would have been nice to see more Councillors at the event.

Cemetery

The Clerk advised that she had received a request from a family who wanted to site a memorial bench next to the hedge at the top of Section XI and XII.

It was agreed that the family would need to show us what bench they want to put in, and we would have to agree the location and they would have to site it.

13225 Stanford Centre

Cllr Metcalf explained that the letter sent to NELC had produced results, and whilst EQUANs have said the roof is in perfect condition, ABM have been up there making repairs. There are still the tiles on the inside to sort out, but EQUANs have advised that the flooding was caused by leaves from the bushes and trees on the school field!

Cllr Metcalf advised that the Library had held its Christmas Fair on the 26th November, and as a result had raised £500 towards their funds. Everyone had a fab time, and the fair was well attended.

13226 Correspondence

There was no correspondence for discussion today.

13227 Information Exchange

Cllr Hasthorpe advised he had received a request for a grit bin at the Mulberries. The Clerk advised that she had requested one last year, and been told no, but will send in another request. Cllr Hasthorpe advised that we usually pay for the grit bin, and NELC fill it, and asked if any other locations needed a grit bin?

Cllr Hasthorpe advised that the next meeting was to be held on the 2nd January and proposed this be moved to the 9th January for just that month? This was agreed by all present. Cllr Barford advised he would need to send his apologies for the January meeting.

Cllr Childs asked whether we could have tea/coffee available at the meetings? It was acknowledged that whilst this is a really good idea, we only here for a short time and in practice would cause more problems. It was agreed that if anyone wanted to fetch a hot drink with them, they could do so.

Cllr Barford advised that we need to purchase more cable ties for the poppies. Clerk to source 300 ties measuring 4.8 * 370.

Cllr Johnson advised that there were 3 broken flag poles at Bishops Grange, but unfortunately, they were taken by someone for scrap.

Cllr Johnson advised that we still had a bench to be sited, and wondered if this could go near the roundabout at Bishops Grange? Agreed for Cllr Johnson to ask Allison Homes.

Cllr Barford questioned when the builders were putting in the footpath from Bishops Grange to the Butt Lane Playing Field as the building work is nearly completed? Cllr Hasthorpe advised he believed there was still an issue with the culvert, but he would chase it up and update at next meeting.

The Chair confirmed the next meeting dates as:

- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30pm
- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm
- Full Council & Planning Meeting – Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30pm

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Signed:

Chair

Dated: